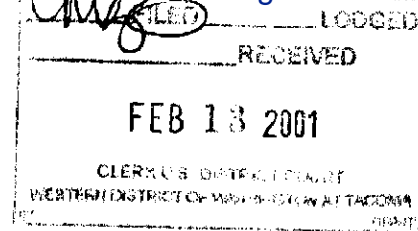


ENTERED  
ON DOCKET

FEB 13 2001

BY DEPUTY

*CMG*

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT TACOMA

KATHLEEN M. HOUSE,

Plaintiff,

v.

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, et al.,

Defendant.

Case No. C98-5262 FDB

ORDER GRANTING RELIEF FROM  
APPOINTMENT AND GRANTING  
APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL

This matter is before the court on the motion for relief from appointment and the plaintiff's response to the court's order to show cause why she should not proceed *pro se* in this matter.

Michele Valier and Miller Nash, LLP are granted leave to withdraw from this case, however, not without admonishment by the court. Ms. Valier was appointed to this case on March 29, 2000. This motion for relief from appointment is the **first** document that she has filed with the court. The plaintiff sent a letter to the court in October 2000 stating that she was unable to contact her court appointed attorney. In October, the court requested that Ms. Valier notify the court of the status of her representation. The motion for relief from appointment followed in January, 2001.

This conduct, regardless of the circumstances or intentions behind it, communicates a certain disregard of the obligations to the client that Ms. Valier agreed to in accepting the appointment from

1 the pro bono panel in this case.

2 The court has also reviewed the statement of the plaintiff in response to the court's order to  
3 show cause. Plaintiff is advised that the availability of pro bono counsel is very limited. In an ideal  
4 world, pro bono counsel would be available and located near plaintiff's residence. However, legal  
5 resources are not consistently or equally distributed throughout the state, and the legal community in  
6 Seattle may be the only source for pro bono counsel in this matter.

7 ORDERED:

- 8 1. Michelle Valier and Miller Nash LLP are granted leave to withdraw from this case.  
9 2. Plaintiff's case is referred to the Pro Bono Screening Committee for the selection of new  
10 counsel.

11  
12 DATED this 11 day of February, 2001.

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15 FRANKLIN D. BURGESS  
16 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
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car

United States District Court  
for the  
Western District of Washington  
February 13, 2001

\* \* MAILING CERTIFICATE OF CLERK \* \*

Re: 3:98-cv-05262

True and correct copies of the attached were mailed by the clerk to the following:

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Judge Burgess

Janet Thornton